

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 22, 24, 26-33 and 36 were pending and rejected. Applicant has amended claims 1, 27, and 36; canceled claim 5; and added claims 66-73. Thus, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 22, 24, 26-33, 36, and 66-73 are now pending.

The previously pending claims were rejected as follows:

- Claims 1-4, 6, 11, and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), and further in view of Kassab et al. (US 20050125292);
- claims 5, 7, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), in view of Kassab et al. (20050125292), and further in view of Postrel (US 2005-0021400);
- claims 9, 12, 31, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), in view of Kassab et al. (20050125292), and further in view of Algiene (US 2003/0229540)
- claims 10, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), in view of Kassab et al. (20050125292), and further in view of Packes, Jr. et al. (US 7,006,983);
- claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), in view of Kassab et al. (20050125292), and further in view of Nguyen (US 2003/0220839);
- claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), in view of Kassab et al. (20050125292), and further in view of McCarthy (US 5,202,826);

- claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), in view of Kassab et al. (20050125292), and further in view of Scroggie et al. (US 6,185,541); and
- claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Wodka et al. (US 2003/0171984), in view of Litwin (US 6,374,228), in view of Kassab et al. (20050125292), and further in view of Lane et al. (7,221,258).

Applicant disagrees with the propriety of the rejections. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution, applicant amends claims 1 and 27 to incorporate features similar to those previously recited by claim 5. The Office Action relies on paragraph 68 of Postrel to reject claim 5. (Office Action, page 8.) Postrel was filed on April 28, 2004, which is after applicant's filing date of December 30, 2003. Postrel is a Continuation-in-Part of application serial numbers 10/608,736 (now Patent 6,820,061) and 09/602,222 (now Patent 6,594,640). Both of those parent patent applications were filed earlier than December 30, 2003, but applicant is unable to find anywhere in the specification of either parent application the passage the Office Action relies upon. Applicant respectfully requests the Office to identify where in either of the parent applications of Postrel the relevant passage appears. If the Office is unable to furnish a citation, the Office has not made a *prima facie* rejection of all previously pending claims, which applicant submits are now in condition for allowance.

Support for claims 66 and 67 is found throughout applicant's specification and figures. (See e.g., claim 27.) Support for claims 68-73 is found throughout applicant's specification and figures. (See, e.g., Figure 6 and paragraphs 80-81.)

Applicant has also amended claims 27 and 36 to improve readability.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for courtesies extended during a telephone conference completed on April 13, 2010. The parties discussed the Postrel priority issue outlined above. The Examiner agreed to evaluate this issue and conduct a new search, if necessary.

Applicant does not concede any rejection not specifically responded to herein and reserves its rights to respond to any such rejections later.

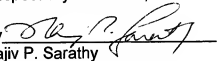
Based on these amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request early allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 320529567US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: April 29, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By



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